

# AVIAN/PANDEMIC FLU NEWSLETTER

THE OFFICIAL AVIAN INFLUENZA NEWSLETTER OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY



**FLU:Pandemic/Bird**  
Plan. Prepare. Protect.  
County of San Diego

[www.sdbirdflu.org](http://www.sdbirdflu.org)

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## Avian Influenza: Current Global Situation Update

### World Health Organization (WHO) August 31, 2007

The WHO has introduced an External Quality Assessment Project for national reference laboratories for the detection of subtype influenza A viruses by polymerase chain reaction (PCR) testing and has now amended the criteria for accepting confirmed cases of A (H5) infection.

(see amended WHO criteria). <http://www.who.int/avianflu/guidelines.html>

(see description of EQA project) [http://www.who.int/csr/disease/avian\\_influenza/guidelines/eqa\\_project/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/csr/disease/avian_influenza/guidelines/eqa_project/en/index.html)

### H5N1 avian influenza in humans - Timeline of major events

Last update: August 27, 2007

[http://www.who.int/avian\\_influenza/timeline/index.html](http://www.who.int/avian_influenza/timeline/index.html)

### AVIAN INFLUENZA CASES IN HUMANS

Since January 2004, the World Health Organization (WHO) has reported human cases of Avian Influenza A/ (H5N1) in more than twelve countries like Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, Azerbaijan, Turkey, Egypt, Djibouti, Iraq, Lao People's Democratic Republic, and Nigeria.

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/avian/latestupdate.htm>

Cumulative Number of Confirmed Human Cases of Avian Influenza A/ (H5N1) Reported to WHO through August 31, 2007. WHO only reports laboratory-confirmed cases.

- ◆ Total human cases of H5N1 (confirmed) = 327
- ◆ Total human deaths from H5N1= 199

[http://www.who.int/csr/disease/avian\\_influenza/cases\\_table\\_2007\\_04\\_11.html](http://www.who.int/csr/disease/avian_influenza/cases_table_2007_04_11.html)

Currently, there are no reported human OR animal cases of the highly pathogenic Avian Influenza (H5N1) in United States.

### World Health Organization (WHO)

#### Vietnam - August 31, 2007

The Ministry of Health of Viet Nam confirms the following 5 additional cases of human infection with H5N1 avian influenza, including 4 deaths, in the country. This is based on the above amended criteria for accepting confirmed cases of A (H5) infection .

*Of the 100 cases confirmed to date in Vietnam, 46 have been fatal.*

#### Indonesia - August 23, 2007

The Ministry of Health has announced a new case of human infection of H5N1 avian influenza. A 28-year-old female from Tabanan District, in Bali Province developed symptoms on 14 August, was hospitalized on 18 August and died in hospital on 21 August. The case was a poultry trader. The case investigation found that she collected poultry from villages where outbreaks of avian influenza in poultry had occurred and were later confirmed by rapid testing.

*Of the 105 cases confirmed to date in Indonesia, 84 have been fatal.*

[http://www.who.int/csr/disease/avian\\_influenza/updates/en/](http://www.who.int/csr/disease/avian_influenza/updates/en/)

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Cumulative Number of Confirmed Human Cases
- Additional Funding for Pandemic Flu Preparedness
- Highly pathogenic H5N1 killed 4,000 ducks in Germany
- North American Plan for Avian and Pandemic Influenza

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## AVIAN INFLUENZA CASES IN POULTRY AND WILD BIRDS

### National Wildlife Health Center - 8-31-07

**Germany** - In the state of Bavaria, routine testing has confirmed that highly pathogenic H5N1 killed 4,000 ducks from a flock of 165,000 at a farm in Erlangen, according to a report from the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE).

Contaminated straw is suspected as the source of H5N1, but the chief veterinarian in the district said it was unclear how the straw, which was stored on the farm, became contaminated, although he suspects wild birds. The extent and duration of the H5N1 outbreak may have been more extensive than initially suspected, as testing of birds culled from two of the other 15 poultry sheds on the farm have tested positive for H5N1.

Similar to an outbreak at a commercial turkey farm in Suffolk, UK, the birds in these two other sheds did not have any clinical signs. Subsequent sequencing of the virus shows that it is related to H5N1 detected in wild birds in Germany and poultry in the Czech Republic earlier this summer.

[http://www.nwhc.usgs.gov/disease\\_information/avian\\_influenza/index.jsp](http://www.nwhc.usgs.gov/disease_information/avian_influenza/index.jsp)



## NATIONAL NEWS

### U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

*August 30, 2007* - Secretary Mike Leavitt announced that the Department is making available another \$75 million to states, territories and four metropolitan areas to help strengthen their capacity to respond to a pandemic influenza outbreak.

"The additional funding will provide our nation's health care community with a means to continue planning, training and acquiring needed equipment for an effective pandemic response," Secretary Leavitt said. "It will also help keep the momentum we have generated over the past year in this important public health area."

The supplemental funding will be used to:

- ◆ Establish or enhance stockpiles of critical medical equipment and supplies;
- ◆ Continue development of plans for maintenance, distribution and sharing of those resources;
- ◆ Plan for and develop pandemic alternate care sites; and
- ◆ Conduct medical surge exercises.

The one-time pandemic influenza response planning grants will supplement the \$430 million HHS announced on June 28, 2007, to strengthen the ability of hospitals and other health care facilities to respond to bioterrorism attacks, infectious diseases, and natural disasters that may cause mass casualties.

Amounts for each jurisdiction can be accessed in this link: <http://www.hhs.gov/news/20070830a.html>

### U.S. DHHS - North American Plan for Avian and Pandemic Influenza News Release

*August 21, 2007*

The Security and Prosperity Partnership of North American Plan for Avian and Pandemic Influenza outlines how Canada, Mexico and the United States intends to work together to combat an outbreak avian or influenza pandemic in North America.

The North American Plan will enhance collaboration in order to:

- Detect, contain, and control an outbreak and prevent transmission to humans;
- Prevent and slow the entry of a novel strain of human influenza to North America;
- Minimize illness and death;
- Sustain infrastructure and mitigate the impact to the economy and the functioning of society;

To read the entire documents go to <http://www.pandemicflu.gov/> and choose *North American Plan for Avian and Pandemic Influenza: August 21, 2007*.



# LOCAL AND STATE NEWS

## **Local News**

### **August 21, 2007 - CDC San Diego Tabletop Exercise**

Dr. Wilma Wooten and staff from TB Control, EMS, and Border Health participated in a CDC Quarantine Station Tabletop Exercise. The purpose of this exercise was to address infectious disease issues (TB and Pandemic Influenza) that could occur at the Border — involving the U.S Public Health Services and the CDC Quarantine Station, California Border Patrol, local public health, and the local healthcare community — and discuss alternative strategies to a quarantine disease incident response.

## **Local Outreach**

Activities related to Pandemic Influenza education in the regions continue with more than 101,795 educational brochures distributed to various community locations. In addition, a total of 127 presentations have been provided to staff and community residents.

## **State/Federal News**

**Pandemic Influenza Funding** - HHS announced an additional \$75 million in supplemental funds to states with \$5,482,954 allocated to California (not including Los Angeles) for 2007 . <http://www.pandemicflu.gov/news/allocation.html>

# PANDEMIC FLU IN THE MEDIA

## **Emerging Infectious Diseases Journal (EIDJ)**

**September 2007**

Faced with an epidemic of an infectious disease, persons may take precautionary actions to try to reduce their risk. Such actions include avoiding situations that persons perceive to be risky, which can have negative health and economic effects. Therefore, we conducted a population-based survey of persons' precautionary actions in response to a hypothetical influenza pandemic.

For the 5 European and 3 Asian regions that had been affected by severe acute respiratory syndrome, the pattern of reported precautionary action was broadly similar across the regions; ≈75% of respondents reported that they would avoid public transportation and 20%–30% would try to stay indoors.

Some regional differences were noted; Europeans were more likely than Asians to avoid places of entertainment, and Asians were more likely to avoid seeing physicians. This international survey provides insight into what might be expected during an influenza pandemic.

<http://www.cdc.gov/eid/content/13/9/1307.htm>

## **CIDRAP News - August 21, 2007**

Government officials in Pakistan announced a recent outbreak of H5N1 avian influenza at a poultry farm in the country's northwest. The Pakistan outbreak occurred in late July at a large farm in the town of Mansehra, about 50 miles north of Islamabad, Reuters reported today. The birds were tested for the disease after about 14,000 chickens at the farm died. After samples came



back positive for the H5N1 virus, the remaining 35,000 birds were culled. A report that Pakistani officials submitted to the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) said the outbreak affected 16-week-old breeder and broiler chickens. Pakistan has had several poultry outbreaks this year, but the latest incident is the first since May, according to OIE reports. The country has not reported any human H5N1 cases.

<http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/birds.html>

## **VOA News.Com - August 25, 2007**

Authorities in Vietnam confirmed that bird flu has spread to two more provinces in the country. That brings the total to four of Vietnam's 64 provinces where the H5N1 virus has been found in recent outbreaks.

Agriculture officials say the virus killed 250 young chickens in the southern Dong Thap province. They report another 150 ducks and 35 chickens were sick with the virus in the northern Thai Nguyen province.

The virus had earlier been reported in the northern provinces of Dien Bien and Cao Bang.

The government says bird flu has killed four people in Vietnam this year, bringing the human death toll in the country to 46 since the first outbreak of the virus in 2003.

<http://www.voanews.com/english/2007-08-25-voa27.cfm>



# Resources

- County Vector Control Program's **(888) 551-INFO (4636)** for info on how to protect birds, or to report dead birds.
- HHSA's Avian and Pandemic Flu Info Line **(619) 515-6900** for info regarding avian and pandemic flu.
- Educational materials are available for public distribution and are also downloadable from the county website: [www.sdbirdflu.org](http://www.sdbirdflu.org) or [www.sdpandemicflu.org](http://www.sdpandemicflu.org). Click on "Pandemic Flu".
- National Geographic International Edition: [www.nationalgeographic.com](http://www.nationalgeographic.com)
- World Health Organization (WHO): [www.who.int](http://www.who.int)
- Federal Dept. of Health & Human Services: [www.pandemicflu.gov](http://www.pandemicflu.gov)
- Federal CDC site: [www.cdc.gov/flu/pandemic](http://www.cdc.gov/flu/pandemic)
- State of California: [www.dhs.ca.gov](http://www.dhs.ca.gov)
- County of San Diego: [www.sdbirdflu.org](http://www.sdbirdflu.org)



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